<u>REMARKS</u>

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 10, 2006. Claims 1 to 10, 17, 18, 21 to 30, 37, 38, 41 to 50, 52, 54 and 56 are pending in the application, Claims 17, 18, 37, 38, 52 and 56 having been withdrawn. Of the claims under consideration, Claims 1, 21, 41 and 54 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 10, 21 to 30, 41 to 50 and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,631,407. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an information management apparatus for transmitting data indicating information on a device to an external apparatus. The information management apparatus includes a storage unit, adapted for storing data indicating information on the device, the stored data being not dependent on a machine kind of the device. The apparatus also includes an acquisition unit, adapted for acquiring the data from the storage unit when the data to be transmitted to the external apparatus is not dependent upon the machine kind of the device, and acquiring the data indicating information on the device from a storage unit in the device when the data to be transmitted to the external apparatus is dependent upon the machine kind of the device. The data dependent upon the machine kind of the device changes in accordance with an attachment condition of option equipment at the device. The apparatus also includes a transmission control unit, adapted for transmitting the data acquired by the acquisition unit to the external apparatus. The data stored in the storage unit of the information management apparatus is not acquired from the device.

Independent Claim 54 is directed to an information management program that corresponds generally to the apparatus of Claim 1.

The applied reference is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 1 and 54, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of acquiring data from a storage unit when data to be transmitted to an external apparatus is not dependent upon a machine kind of a device, and acquiring data indicating information on the device from a storage unit in the device when the data to be transmitted to the external apparatus is dependent upon the machine kind of the device, wherein the data dependent upon the machine kind of the device changes in accordance with an attachment condition of option equipment at the device.

In contrast, Mukaiyama is seen to disclose a device management network system including a management server 20, a plurality of client devices 30 and a plurality of printing devices 10. The management server 20 stores image data files, Java applet class files and HTML document files in a storing part 25 (HDD 212), and sends the files to the client device(s) 30. See column 8, lines 37 to 41 and 66 to 67, and column 9, lines 14 to 17 of Mukaiyama. When printing device 10 detects a change in operation status, printing device 10 sends an SNMP trap message to the management server 20, and then the management server 20 sends a change notifying packet to the client device(s) 30. See column 8, lines 1 to 11, and column 12, lines 7 to 13. The client device 30 that has received the change notifying packet sends a screen data request to the management server 20 and receives corresponding screen data from the management server 20, and then re-displays a device-details screen 31. See column 12, line 54 to column 13, line 3.

While Mukaiyama discloses a printing device 10 sending an SNMP trap message to a management server 20 upon detecting a change in operational status, Mukaiyama is not seen to disclose or to suggest acquiring data from a storage unit when data to be transmitted to an external apparatus is not dependent upon a machine kind of a device, and acquiring data indicating information on the device from a storage unit in the device when the data to be transmitted to the external apparatus is dependent upon the machine kind of the device, wherein the data dependent upon the machine kind of the device changes in accordance with an attachment condition of option equipment at the device. Accordingly, independent Claims 1 and 54 are believed to be allowable.

Independent Claim 21 is directed to an information management method for transmitting data indicating information on a device to an external apparatus. The method includes an acquisition step of acquiring the data from a storage unit in an information management apparatus connected to the device when the data to be transmitted to the external apparatus is not dependent upon a machine kind of the device, and acquiring the data indicating information on the device from a storage unit in the device when the data to be transmitted to the external apparatus is dependent upon the machine kind of the device. The data dependent upon the machine kind of the device changes in accordance with an attachment condition of option equipment at the device. The method also includes a transmission control step of transmitting so that the data acquired in the acquisition step to the external apparatus. The data stored in the storage unit of the information management apparatus is not acquired from the device.

Independent Claim 41 is directed to a computer-readable memory medium that corresponds generally to the method of Claim 21.

For reasons similar to those discussed above, Mukaiyama is not seen to disclose or to suggest acquiring data from a storage unit in an information management apparatus connected to a device when data to be transmitted to an external apparatus is not dependent upon a machine kind of the device, and acquiring data indicating information on the device from a storage unit in the device when data to be transmitted to the external apparatus is dependent upon the machine kind of the device, wherein the data dependent upon the machine kind of the device changes in accordance with an attachment condition of option equipment at the device. Accordingly, independent Claims 21 and 41 are believed to be allowable.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.
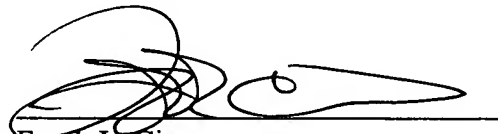
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Turning now to a formal matter, Applicant respectfully requests consideration of JP 11-134140 and JP 2000-194640, which were cited in the Information Disclosure Statement dated January 24, 2006, and U.S. Patent No. 6,581,101, which was cited in the Information Disclosure Statement dated July 8, 2005. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing

and returning a copy of the Forms PTO-1449, which were provided with the corresponding

Information Disclosure Statements, with the next communication.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA

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listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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